

# Provincial Laboratory Services



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**Health PEI**  
One Island Health System

## Storage Requirements for Hematology Samples Prior/During Transport to QEH Laboratory

August 29, 2019 **REVISED** August 11, 2021

*This information applies to: Blood Sample Collection Sites in Charlottetown Outside QEH*

It is critical to maintain samples at the correct temperature before testing to ensure that accurate results are obtained. As a general rule for hematology samples, prior to and during transport to the QEH laboratory:

- Keep EDTA (**purple top**) tubes at **fridge temperature** (4°C)
- Keep citrate (**blue top**) tubes at **room temperature** (18-24°C)
  - NEVER put blue top tubes in the fridge or on ice!

**When we receive your sample, the laboratory assumes that you have kept it at the correct temperature.**

If you have any doubt as to your site's ability to keep the samples at the correct temperature (and thereby ensure accurate results), ask the patient to book an appointment to have their sample taken at a hospital blood sample collection site:

Hospital	Specimen Collection Contact #
QEH	(902) 894-2138
PCH	(902) 438-4280
WH	(902) 853-3163
CHO	(902) 853-3163
KCMH	(902) 838-0757
SH	(902) 687-7150

**Remember – if you store the sample at the wrong temperature, the results may be **incorrect!****

**Storage temperature requirements for common hematology tests:**

Test	Temperature	How long (maximum) <sup>1</sup>
A1C (HgbA1c)	4°C (QEH only)	72 hours (QEH only)
aPTT	18-24°C	4 hours
BCR-ABL	4°C	14 days
Body fluid cell count	4°C	24 hours
	18-24°C	1 hour
CBC with differential	4°C (preferred) or 18-24°C	8 hours
ESR	4°C (QEH only)	24 hours (QEH only)
	18-24°C (QEH only)	4 hours (QEH only)
Factors VIII and/or IX	18-24°C	3 hours
JAK2	4°C	14 days
Malaria panel	18-24°C	1 hour
PT	18-24°C	24 hours

If you are interested in the storage requirements for a QEH Hematology test not listed on this page, or have any other questions about hematology tests at the QEH, please contact the QEH Hematology laboratory at (902) 894-2332.

***For more information, contact:***

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 (902) 894-2535*

<sup>1</sup> Remember, this must include the time for sample to be processed and tested once it arrives at the laboratory!